

## **FACT SHEET**

### **AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR SECONDARY ALUMINUM PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

#### **ACTION**

- On September 27, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended the regulation that controls emissions of hazardous air pollutants from secondary aluminum production facilities. Hazardous air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.
- The final rule for secondary aluminum production facilities, issued in March 2000, and amended in December 2002, is based on the maximum level of control that is achievable. This level of control is commonly known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- Secondary aluminum plants recover aluminum from scrap such as aluminum beverage cans, car body parts, doors, siding and other aluminum scrap. Air toxics emitted vary by facility and process operation but may include: antimony; arsenic; lead; manganese; beryllium; cadmium; chromium; cobalt; mercury; nickel; and selenium; organic compounds (including dioxins and furans, and polycyclic organic matter); and acid gases such as hydrogen chloride and chlorine.
- These amendments correct typographical errors in the final rule.
- Today's final rule amendments will not change the health and environmental benefits of the rule, and they will not change the requirement that new and existing major sources control emissions of air toxics.
- EPA is publishing this as both a direct final rule and proposed rule. The Agency views the action as noncontroversial and does not anticipate adverse comments. However, if EPA receives adverse comments on these amendments, we will withdraw those section(s) of the direct final rule and carefully evaluate the comments before taking any final action.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of listed pollutants), the CAA requires EPA to

develop standards that require the application of MACT.

- The CAA also requires EPA to regulate area sources where an area source finding has been made due to the health effects of certain air toxics. Area sources are defined as those sources that emit hazardous air pollutants in quantities less than that of major sources.
- Numerous air toxics are released from various emission points at secondary aluminum production facilities.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the amendments, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at *<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>* under newly proposed or promulgated rules.
- For further information about the amendments, contact Mr. Rick Colyer of EPA's Minerals and Inorganic Chemicals Group at (919) 541-5262 or *[colyer.rick@epa.gov](mailto:colyer.rick@epa.gov)*.
- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: *<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>*.